

NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE®

THE CITY OF DECATUR

Its Institutions, Its Manufactories, and Its Enterprising People.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF OTHER BUSINESS, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, & CITIES, ETC.

In the foregoing articles we have given brief mention of the various public improvements, and the principal manufacturing industries of the city, though there are many others we would like to mention, and will, at some future date. It is left at this time to give a summary of other affairs of the city that may prove of interest to the reading public.

Among these we are proud to mention the newspapers, of which there are four dailies and five weeklies, as follows: *Decatur Republican*, *Decatur Review*, *Decatur Herald*, *Labor Bulletin* and the *State Sentinel*. The four former are also daily publications. The aggregate number of employees, including delivery help, engaged in this business, is not far from one hundred persons, and those employed in the special jobbing offices will augment this number to about thirty additional employees.

We should not forget to give mention of the *Decatur Detachable Book Company* in this connection, which was incorporated in 1884, with a capital stock of \$50,000. These books are utilized where immediate and more than ordinary quick action is required. The company has not yet established a factory in the city, the same being manufactured in the east and put together here at 341 East Main street. Wm. H. Starr is president of the company; H. A. O'Connell, secretary, and H. E. Foster, is the executor of the mechanism.

The wholesale houses of the city are numerous and varied, and are operated upon safe business principles. Among them are J. Ulrich & Co., grocers, 240 to 248 East Main; E. D. Bartholomew, glass and queensware, China, notions, etc., 207 North Water; Young Bros. & Maris, grocers, 256 and 260 North Water; Morehouse & Wells, hardware, notions and tinware, 347 and 353 North Water; D. W. Browneman & Co., liquors, etc., 217 North Water; Powers & Haworth, boots and shoes, 200 North Park; Keefe & Kraft, liquors, etc., 234 North Park; Mueller & Sons, sporting goods, 198 North Main; Fisher & Holmes, confectionery, 129, East Main; George R. Bacon & Co., cigar dealers, 308 North Main; J. G. Starr & Son, saddles and harness, 111, 115 and 118 North Main; E. O. Reese, sporting goods, 117 North Water; Alphonso O. Brewer, baker, 211 North Main.

The banks are old and reliable institutions, having stood the test of the most stringent times, and have ever met their obligations promptly. The national bank, 205 North Water; J. Millikin & Co., North Water; Peabody, Barrows & Co., 203 South Park; Gurin, Dawson & Co., 134 North Main and 125 North Main street. The telephone is no small item of convenience to both business men and private citizens; of these there are over two hundred and fifty phones placed in use in the city, they having communication with Peoria, Springfield, Peoria, Jacksonville, Chicago, Pekin, Pontiac, Taylorville, and nearly one hundred other cities in various parts of the state.

The public schools and school buildings are unequalled for superior management, convenience and comfort of the pupils. They are now, and have been for many years, under the efficient superintendency of Prof. E. A. Gastman. There are six ward schools and one high school, with an attendance of about two thousand pupils. Besides, there are several private institutions of learning among which are the Central Business college, St. Theresa's Academy, German Lutheran school, St. James' parish school and musical college.

The church societies and church edifices are numerous and varied. Among them are several fine buildings, which will compare favorably in finish and architecture with like edifices of the larger cities. There are five Methodist Episcopal churches, two Lutheran, two Roman Catholic, two Episcopal, two Baptist, one Christian church, one Church of God, one Presbyterian, one United Brethren, and one Universalist church; besides the society of the Young Men's Christian association.

The secret societies are represented largely, and some of the lodge rooms and temples could be surpassed in the state. Of these there are six Masonic lodges, six Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges, four circles of Knights of Labor, three Knights of Pythias, two Knights of Honor, Independent Order Mutual Aid, Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Independent Order of Good Templars, Royal Templars of Temperance, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Of the military and miscellaneous associations there are the Decatur Guards, Regimental Guards, Ancient Order of Silversmiths, Carpenters and Joiners Brotherhood, Cigar Makers' Union, Decatur Turn Verein, Decatur Typographical Union, German Aid Society, Iron Molders' Union, The Decatur Club, Workingmen's Club, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Women's Relief Corps. We should also mention in this connection, St. Mary's Hospital, and the Decatur Galvanic Infirmary.

The city is also supplied with a superb and commodious opera building, and public halls are so numerous that we will not go into detail. We have not included in this series of articles the many tile factories, brick, and lumber companies, commercial firms, etc., which furnish a large capital to the trade and give employment to hundreds of laborers. Neither have we space nor time.

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